

Prioritization of Category 5 for the 2002/2004 Washington Water Quality Assessment

As part of this list Ecology is required to submit a schedule and prioritization for the establishment of TMDLS for waters in Category 5. The Memorandum of Agreement signed by Ecology and EPA on how Ecology will conduct TMDLS on a watershed basis provides the schedule for completion of TMDLS. This process is described in detail on page 32 of Ecology's listing policy and in section II of the Memorandum of Agreement between EPA and Ecology signed October 29, 1997. As part of that scheduling process the listings are prioritized at the beginning of the scoping process. This is described in Section III of the Memorandum of Agreement.

Ecology's TMDL prioritization and scheduling process is a Five Step, Five Year process.

Year 1 SCOPING:

Identify and prioritize known and suspected water quality issues within the WQMA by assembling information from extensive community involvement and internal Ecology staff and reports, including the 303(d) list and the schedule for TMDL submittal. Produce a Needs Assessment and develop a TMDL priority list.

Year 2/3 DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS:

Develop Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPPs) for TMDLS. Conduct water quality monitoring, special studies, facility inspections, and other general research. Develop technical basis for TMDLS.

Year 4 PLAN OF ACTION:

Develop a Plan of Action in coordination with the watershed community that addresses the priority problems identified in Year 1. Issue draft TMDLS for public comment and subsequent submittal to EPA. Summarize strategies and management activities needed to implement TMDLS, to issue or reissue waste discharge permits, to form partnerships, and to address funding issues. Submit final TMDLS and summary implementation strategies to EPA. Develop a Plan of Action in coordination with the watershed community that addresses the priority problems identified in Year 1.

Year 5 IMPLEMENTATION:

Implement TMDLS; issue or reissue waste discharge permits, and work with local, state and federal programs, and partners to implement nonpoint pollution prevention and control activities.

The following is Ecology's schedule for addressing 303(d) listings:

2003

Begin the TMDL process by scoping the following water resource inventory areas:

WRIA 8 – Cedar-Sammamish WRIA 9 – Duwamish-Green WRIA 13 - Deschutes WRIA 14 – Kennedy Goldsborough WRIA 16 – Skokomish-Dosewallips WRIA 17 – Quilcene - Snow WRIA18 – Elwha-Dungeness	WRIA 19 – Lyre-Hoko WRIA 37-Lower Yakima WRIA 54 – Lower Spokane WRIA 55 – Little Spokane WRIA 56 – Hangman WRIA 57 – Middle Spokane
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2004

Begin the TMDL process by scoping the following water resource inventory areas:

WRIA 3 – Lower Skagit WRIA 4 –Upper Skagit WRIA 5 - Stilliguamish WRIA 27 – Lewis WRIA 28 – Salmon-Washougal WRIA 29 – Wind-White Salmon WRIA 30 - Klickitat WRIA 31 – Rock-Glade	WRIA 52 - Sanpoil WRIA 53 – Lower Lake Roosevelt WRIA 58 – Middle Lake Roosevelt WRIA 59 - Colville WRIA 60 - Kettle WRIA 61 – Upper Lake Roosevelt WRIA 62 – Pend Oreille
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2005

Begin the TMDL process by scoping the following water resource inventory areas:

WRIA 6 – Island WRIA 7 Snohomish WRIA 10 - Puyallup-White WRIA 11 – Nisqually WRIA 12 – Chambers-Clover WRIA 36 – Esquatzel	WRIA 42 – Grand Coulee WRIA 43 – Upper Crab-Wilson WRIA 48 – Methow WRIA 49 – Okanogan WRIA 50 – Foster WRIA 51 - Nespelem
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Prioritization of Forest only 303(d) listings:

The state forest practices rules were designed and adopted, in part, to meet the requirements of the Clean Water Act and the state water quality standards. The rules, consistent with the Forests & Fish Report, contain the array of best management practices believed to be most effective in protecting and improving water quality and habitat for threatened and endangered species while maintaining a viable forest products industry. Because the rules are so detailed and complete, they essentially accomplish “early implementation” of the same best management practices

likely to be used if a TMDL had been produced. As such, they provide a pathway to achieving compliance with the state water quality standards and the Clean Water Act.

While the forest practices rules are not primarily water quality rules, Ecology has a special role in their adoption and implementation, since many of the rules directly affect water quality. The Forest Practices Board adopts the forest practices rules, which are primarily implemented by the Department of Natural Resources. However, for those sections of the rules pertaining to water quality protection, the Forest Practices Board must reach agreement with Ecology. Ecology also has authority to independently enforce the “water quality” sections of the rules. In addition, compliance and monitoring programs for forested lands are being developed by the Dept. of Natural Resources, in collaboration with WDFW, Ecology and other stakeholders.

Therefore, in those watersheds affected only by forest practices, listings for waters impaired by sediment, turbidity, or temperature caused by forest practices on state and private forest lands will generally be lower priority and will be addressed after July 1, 2009. Exceptions may be made if requested by the landowners. Listings caused by forest practices in mixed use watersheds will be addressed according to the schedule above. TMDLs prepared in mixed use watersheds will specify that the implementation mechanism for achieving load allocations for forest practices will be compliance with the forest practices rules.